

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, OECD

SUBJECT: EDRC REVIEW OF NEW ZEALAND

REFS: (A) OECD PARIS 4744

(B) STATE 45865

DELIVER TO SERVERS OPENING OF BUSINESS TUESDAY MARCH 4

IN ADDITION TO COMMENTS REF (B) ON NEW ZEALAND TRADE
POLICY FOR TC WHICH ALSO GERMANE TO EDRC, DEPT OFFERS
FOLLOWING COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:

1. DOES CURRENT PETROLEUM EXPLORATION ACTIVITY OFFER ANY
HOPE FOR RELIEF IN THIS AREA OF IMPORT PAYMENTS? WHAT IS
THE ROLE OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN THIS AREA?

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2. WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS FOR EXPANSION OF MARKETS FOR TRADITIONAL NZ EXPORTS; E.G., MEAT TO THE MIDDLE EAST?

3. THE SECRETARIAT REFERS TO THE DESIRABILITY OF A LONG-TERM SCHEME FOR FARM INCOME STABILIZATION. WE UNDERSTAND THAT A STUDY OF THIS VERY SUBJECT IS NEAR COMPLETION IN NZ. WHAT ARE THE LIKELY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THIS STUDY?

4. THE SECRETARIAT NOTES THAT UNEMPLOYMENT IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE "FURTHER" DURING THE COURSE OF THE YEAR. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT CURRENT UNEMPLOYMENT IS IN FACT VERY LOW -- ABOUT 0.2 PER CENT. COULD NZ DELEGATES PROVIDE DEFINITE FIGURES FOR CURRENT AND EXPECTED UNEMPLOYMENT? KISSINGER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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